

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

2012 - 0060

April 15, 2012

The Honorable Juan Camilo Restrepo Salazar  
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Honorable Sergio Díaz-Granados Guida  
Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism

Dear Ministers Restrepo and Díaz-Granados:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter of today's date, which reads as follows:

"I have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between representatives of the Government of the Republic of Colombia (Colombia) and the Government of the United States of America (United States) during the course of discussions pertaining to the implementation of the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, in regard to the temporary measures for the importation of "Paddy" Rice from the United States of America to Colombia:

1. The phytosanitary certificate (PC) issued by United States Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will state: "The shipment was fumigated with Methyl Bromide, and inspected and found free of the insects: *Cryptolestes pusillus*, *Oryzaephilus Mercator* and *Trogoderma variabile*. The PC shall include an additional declaration indicating *Alternaria padwickii* as "not officially known to occur in the United States."
2. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspectors shall verify moisture content of the "paddy" rice (above 12.5%) at the time of fumigation. The dosage, temperature and duration of the Methyl Bromide treatment for *Tilletia horrida* are the following:

| MB<br>DOSE               | TEMPERATURE | TIME     |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------|
| 96 gr/m <sup>3</sup>     | 16 °C       | 24 hours |
| 120<br>gr/m <sup>3</sup> | Below 16 °C | 24 hours |

This information must be recorded on an official USDA document. Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA) officers may verify the treatment process with Methyl Bromide.

3. The entry of the "paddy" rice shipments shall be authorized only through the sea port located in the city of Barranquilla, and its industrialization process shall be carried out exclusively at the mills located in the jurisdiction of the municipality of Barranquilla.

The shipment shall come free of soil, organic matter, impurities and other seeds of quarantine concern.

4. ICA will conduct a phytosanitary inspection at the port of Barranquilla, verifying over time that the measures implemented by APHIS, including the use of Methyl Bromide, are significantly reducing the risks of introduction of *Tilletia horrida* to the Colombian territory. Understanding that the risks of such introduction are significantly reduced through the measures described in paragraphs 1 through 3, the shipment shall be released for processing upon completion of the ship board inspection and not be held pending further analysis for *Tilletia horrida*.

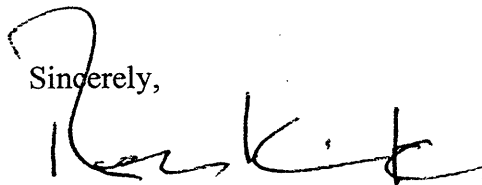
5. The husk resulting from industrial processing shall not be used for commercial purposes and shall be destroyed by incineration in the mill.

6. These requirements shall remain in effect until a modification is agreed upon between Colombia and the United States taking into account a risk assessment and/or the experience gained with respect to the operation of this protocol.

I have the honor to propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming this understanding shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments, and enter into force on this day".

I have the honor to confirm that my Government shares this understanding and that your letter and this reply shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments to enter into force on this day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Kirk", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ambassador Ron Kirk



Courtesy Translation

April 15, 2012

Ambassador Ron Kirk  
United States Trade Representative  
Washington, DC, United States of America

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

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Sincerely,

Juan Camilo Restrepo Salazar  
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

Sergio Díaz-Granados Guida  
Minister of Trade, Industry and  
Tourism